



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *Express News* reports that scientists at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research have received a \$5 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to begin studying the Marburg virus, which federal security officials say could be in the hands of terrorist groups that want to turn it into a biological weapon. The virus is in the same family as Ebola. (See item [20](#))
- *WBZ Boston* reports that legislation was filed on Monday to make it a crime to place a false emergency call to 911 in the State of Massachusetts. More than 300,000 calls a year taken at the wireless 911 center in Framingham are not for real emergencies. The non-emergency calls can tie up emergency lines, making it harder for callers with real emergencies to reach an operator. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 8, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **Sources: \$4.6 billion settlement in power plant air pollution case.** In the largest environmental settlement in Justice Department history, American Electric Power (AEP) has agreed to install \$4.6 billion in equipment to sharply reduce emissions at coal-fired power plants in five states, sources said. AEP, one of the nation's largest power producers, owns coal-fired plants in the Ohio River Valley. The record

settlement comes eight years after the Justice Department filed suit alleging AEP and six other power companies had “illegally released massive amounts of air pollutants for years.” On November 3, 1999, the Justice Department filed the landmark lawsuits against the power companies alleging they violated the Clean Air Act by making major modifications at many of their plants without installing the equipment required to control smog, acid rain, and soot. The upgrades will be made at power plants in Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana and Kentucky, the sources said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/law/10/08/pollution.suit.settlement/index.html>

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Chemical Industry

2. *October 8, Statesville Record & Landmark* – (North Carolina) **Chemical spill forces residents from homes.** Neighbors of a Statesville cloth-dyeing plant were forced to evacuate Monday morning following a chemical leak. As many as 30 people were told to leave their homes after three different chemicals at Mocaro Industries seeped from their containers, authorities said. Charlotte’s Hazardous Materials Team was called in as “a second line of defense,” according to the Charlotte Fire Department Captain. The decision was made early by the emergency team to evacuate residents within a half mile of the Mocaro plant, which is in the western part of Statesville. At about 2 p.m., officials cleared the way for residents to return to their homes. The evacuation lasted about four hours.

Source:

http://www.statesville.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=SRL%2FMGArticle%2FSRL_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353044244&path=!news

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

3. *October 9, Technology Review* – (New Jersey) **Nuclear energy revs up.** Nuclear power hit an important milestone late last month as NRG Energy, based in Princeton, New Jersey, filed a licensing application to build a new nuclear reactor. It is the first such filing in the United States since 1978. There is good reason to anticipate more: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Washington, DC, expects to receive four more applications this year to build and operate nuclear reactors, and another fifteen in 2008. Nuclear-industry advocates say that NRG Energy’s application and those in the pipeline show that a nuclear renaissance is under way. Many observers credit the Energy Policy Act of 2005. NRG Energy says that the law’s loan guarantees and tax incentives could cover up to 80 percent of the cost of its \$5.4 to \$6.8 billion project. NRG Energy’s application seeks permission to build two new reactors beside two existing reactors at the South Texas Project nuclear-power station, in Bay City, TX, adding 2,700 megawatts of capacity capable of powering about two million homes. NRG hopes to begin construction in 2010 and to be operating the reactors by 2015, assuming there are no significant regulatory or construction delays.

Source: <http://www.technologyreview.com/Energy/19489/>

4. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Reactor down at Palo Verde because of non-**

nuclear leak. One of three reactors at the nation's largest nuclear power plant complex is off-line because of a leak in a water-cooling system. The reactor has been down at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Wintersburg, 50 miles west of Phoenix, since operators discovered the leak Saturday. An Arizona Public Service (APS) spokeswoman said the leak is non-nuclear and does not pose a threat. APS hopes to have the reactor up and running by the end of the week. The leak comes as a 20-member team from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducts a two-week inspection at the plant to assess performance problems. Palo Verde has been on the regulatory hot seat since 2004. The plant supplies electricity to some 4 million customers in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and California.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1008pv.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 9, Market Wire* – (Hawaii) **RAPIDGate Program establishes new beachhead to help improve security for the U.S. Army in Hawaii.** Eid Passport, Inc. announced today that its RAPIDGate Program has expanded outside the continental U.S., serving to improve physical security and gate efficiency for the U.S. Army installations in Hawaii. The voluntary program helps streamline access control procedures for authorized vendors, suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, and service providers who routinely access the installations. This implementation of the RAPIDGate Program joins thirteen implementations currently in operation at Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security facilities from Washington, D.C. to California. “The RAPIDGate Program is an important component of our strategy to keep all personnel on our installations safer and more secure,” explained an Anti-Terrorism Officer stationed in Hawaii.
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/071009/0312589.html>
6. *October 8, Reuters* – (District of Columbia) **U.S. Army eyes longer weapons contracts.** The U.S. Army's top arms buyer said on Monday he would like to acquire new helicopters and Bradley fighting vehicles with contracts that lock in prices for three years, rather than the standard one year, a move generally cheered by industry. “We’re talking large dollar amounts” of potential savings, said the Assistant Army Secretary, who is responsible for \$56 billion in procurement of weapons and services this year. Speaking to reporters during the annual conference of the Association of the U.S. Army, a support organization, the Assistant Secretary mentioned potential savings on Boeing Co. Apache attack helicopters, Textron Inc.’s Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, and the EADS light utility helicopter. Generally, Congress balks at approving multiyear contracts unless they save at least 10 percent of the cost of a typical one-year deal with options for later years. However, the idea is popular with the Pentagon, even for smaller savings, because it locks in lower prices. Defense contractors like it because it makes longer production runs more likely, providing stability.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/08/AR2007100801390.html>
7. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Raytheon awarded \$150M army contract.** Defense contractor Raytheon Co. said Monday it has received a \$150 million contract from the U.S. Army to upgrade Patriot missile equipment. The initial contract is for the upgrade of one

battalion, consisting of four “fire units” of Patriot hardware. The upgrades are part of the Army’s “Pure Fleet” modernization program, which is designed to bring all Patriot equipment to Configuration 3 status from Configuration 2. Raytheon will provide hardware upgrades to four Patriot radars, engagement control stations and launchers. Work will be conducted at the company’s Integrated Air Defense Center in Andover, Massachusetts.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071008/raytheon_contract.html?.v=1

8. *October 8, The Washington Business Journal* – (Nationwide) **Army, Marines award equipment contracts to BAE.** BAE Systems Inc. has landed seven contracts worth \$43.5 million to outfit Army and Marine Corps troops with helmets, body armor and vests. The contracts were awarded to the Rockville-based defense contractor’s mobility and protection-systems unit. The work will be performed in Jessup, Pennsylvania; Jefferson City, Tennessee; and Phoenix, Arizona. Separately, BAE Systems won a contract worth up to \$14.5 million to provide lightweight aluminum to 215 Army vehicles, including the RG31 patrol vehicle, to protect them against rocket-propelled grenades.

Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2007/10/08/daily2.html?ana=from_rss

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *October 9, PR Newswire* – (Texas) **North Dallas bank deploys check fraud prevention technology from ASD and Parascript.** The North Dallas Bank & Trust Co. – one of the largest independent banks in Texas – has implemented a new technology developed by Advanced Software Design Corporation (ASD) using check stock verification and signature authentication technology from Parascript, LLC. The new system is capable of processing images of personal and business checks faster and with higher accuracy than with visual inspection, and it helps save money spent for the verification and the examination of checks written for lower values. Overall, the system will enhance the bank’s capability to fight and detect fraud. “We have decreased fraud losses by an outstanding 92 percent in the past 12 months and are now inspecting low-dollar fraud items that were previously not reviewed,” said the executive vice president of North Dallas Bank.

Source: http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,194193.shtml

10. *October 8, WDSU New Orleans* – (National) **Fans, beware: Ticket scams growing yearly.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) warns football fans of online ticket scammers. According to the vice president of ticket and suite sales for the New Orleans Saints, fans have purchased phony tickets at every home game. The BBB urged people to never pay with a cashier’s check and never wire money when the tickets are purchased from unknown sellers. Another precautionary measure is to compare the picture of the tickets (when available) and cross-check seat assignments with a map of the venue.

Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/news/14296143/detail.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *October 9, The Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Truck shears power pole; sagging lines delay trains.** On Monday, five trains to and from Sacramento were delayed for hours and another train was canceled entirely following a vehicle crash near the tracks in Dixon, California. The accident did not affect the tracks, but it damaged a power pole causing power lines to drop close to the ground. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/421831.html>
12. *October 9, WTVF Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Train derails in downtown Nashville.** A train carrying Nissan cars derailed Monday night in Nashville, Tennessee. Nine railroad cars flipped totaling the vehicles they were transporting. The incident did not result in injuries or damage to nearby buildings. The tracks are expected to reopen by 8 p.m. on Tuesday.
Source: http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=7184296&nav=menu374_1
13. *October 8, KTVU San Francisco Bay Area* – (California) **Bomb threat shuts down Oakland International Airport.** On Monday, officials at Oakland International Airport, California evacuated hundreds of passengers from a terminal, after the airport received three threats by phone regarding a flight going to Chicago Midway Airport. Authorities closed all roads leading to the airport complex and searched all baggage located on the plane, but they found no device. The incident did not cause any injuries, but generated flight delays.
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/14295101/detail.html>
14. *October 8, KCCI Des Moines* – (Iowa) **Officials say herbicide leaked from luggage.** Security officials at the Des Moines International Airport became suspicious Monday morning when a piece of luggage they were handling started leaking. After the airport officials closed and cleaned the baggage screening area, the hazardous materials crew investigated the substance, which appeared to be an herbicide packed in a plastic bag. No flights were delayed.
Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/14292977/detail.html>
15. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Soaring yet simple concrete design will replace collapsed Minnesota bridge.** The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Flatiron and Manson Construction Company's officials made public on Monday the design of the new bridge, which will feature "twin, five-lane spans and will include highly durable concrete, built-in sensors for monitoring its structural integrity and multiple backup systems that were absent in the collapsed steel bridge." The design will also accommodate a rail transit line, a possible suspension bridge underneath for pedestrian traffic, and parks with observation decks below the bridge. A community forum is scheduled for later this month, where selected participants will decide the appearance of the support piers.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,300285,00.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 9, Louisville Courier Journal* – (Indiana) **Deaths of southern Indiana cattle investigated.** The deaths of 12 beef cattle last weekend at a Clark County farm, in southern Indiana, prompted Purdue University veterinary pathologists to launch an investigation on Monday. Having so many cattle die at once is “unusual,” said the lab director of the Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Researchers were fairly certain they could rule out a link to two viruses killing whitetail deer this year in Indiana, Kentucky and some Southern states, including epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) commonly known as “blue tongue.” The region’s drought has been a complicating factor, and the lab director said some cattle there have died of malnutrition and heat stress.
Source: <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071009/LOCAL/71009020/-1/LOCAL17>
17. *October 9, Daily Toreador* – (Texas) **USDA grant to fund E. coli research.** Texas Tech University researchers are studying methods of E. coli contamination prevention with the help of a nearly \$600,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant. A team of researchers at the university’s International Center for Food Industry Excellence will use the grant to fund its Pre-harvest Food and Safety Demonstration, where it is conducting research in reducing E. coli O157 and Salmonella in feed yards, as well as educating members of the cattle industry in safety and anti-contamination practices, said the Center’s director. The USDA grant is part of a \$14 million package distributed among 17 universities to improve U.S. food safety, according to a Tech news release.
Source:
<http://media.www.dailytoreador.com/media/storage/paper870/news/2007/10/09/News/Usda-Grant.To.Fund.E.Coli.Research.At.Tech-3019629.shtml>
18. *October 8, The Boston Globe* – (National) **Shortage on farms prompts US to rewrite foreign labor rules.** In an effort to stem a nationwide farm-worker shortage that threatens to leave fruits and vegetables unharvested, the Bush administration has begun rewriting federal regulations to eliminate barriers that restrict how foreign laborers can be brought legally into the U.S. The effort, underway at the US departments of State, Labor, and Homeland Security is meant to rescue farm owners caught between a complex process to hire legal guest-workers and stepped-up enforcement that has reduced the number of illegal planters, pickers, and middle managers crossing the border.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2007/10/08/shortage_on_farms_prompts_us_to_rewrite_foreign_labor_rules/

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Water Sector

19. *October 9, Associated Press* – (California) **SoCal farmers to face water woes in 2009.** Officials from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California stated that deliveries to southern California’s agricultural customers will be cut by almost a third next year. Half of the water to Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties

comes from the district, with the rest coming from underground sources and other local supplies. Cuts to agricultural customers will take effect on January first, following the August delta smelt ruling. Many utilities sell water at a discount rate to agricultural users who, in exchange, are the first to suffer cutbacks during shortages. Rates for residential water customers are expected to increase five to ten percent in 2009.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ijeY94UKJADS1o-tlzF8AG-C0tAAD8S5J6082>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *October 9, Express News* – (National) **Scientists to tackle virus that could be terror weapon.** The Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research has received a \$5 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to begin studying the Marburg virus, an uncommon, but potentially deadly African virus. Federal security officials say Marburg virus could be in the hands of terrorist groups that want to turn it into a biological weapon. Marburg virus, which is in the same family of viruses as Ebola, can cause high fevers that can lead to internal bleeding and death in humans and nonhuman primates. There has never been a recorded outbreak in the United States, but little is known about Marburg and there are no effective treatments or cures. Eastern Virginia Medical School and Incogen Inc., a private biotechnology company in Williamsburg, Virginia, are partners in the research.
Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA100907.08B.marburgvirus.2ec27fe.html>
21. *October 9, The Wall Street Journal* – (National) **U.S. opens the door to Chinese pills.** Last summer, Huahai Pharmaceuticals, a small drug maker in Linhai, China received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for nevirapine, a generic AIDS drug. FDA officials say this is the first time a Chinese company has won permission to export finished pills to the U.S. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, even as Chinese goods attract more scrutiny, the country's generic drug industry is "gearing up for the export of finished medicines." Owing to its low costs and abundant resources, China is already a major exporter of raw pharmaceutical ingredients. According to the article: "Major markets already depend on the country for raw drug ingredients, as well as for commodities like vitamin C, for which Chinese manufacturers provide more than 85% of the supply used in the U.S." Huahai must wait to export its drug until May 2012, when the brand name manufacturer's U.S. patent for nevirapine expires. Huahai currently sells nevirapine to the Chinese government for around \$3.50 for one bottle of 60, 200-milligram pills. Once Huahai-manufactured nevirapine is sold in the U.S., the FDA will inspect the factory and drugs periodically," depending on a variety of factors, including any known risk associated with the product, manufacturing process or facility," an agency spokeswoman says.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119187230072652477.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
22. *October 8, The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services* – (National) **HHS awards contracts for advanced development of new medical countermeasures.** On Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the award of contracts totaling \$55.3 million to four companies for the advanced development of anthrax antitoxins,

therapeutics and antibiotics for use against plague and tularemia. The new Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and NIH's National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), provided funding for the new contracts. (The Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act of 2007 directed HHS to establish the BARDA office and authorized the funding of advanced development of medical countermeasures). Through an agreement with BARDA, NIAID will manage the contracts. Advanced development of medical countermeasures is a key aspect of BARDA's mission, said the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. "This multi-agency cooperation is a milestone achievement that demonstrates to the biotech industry our department's commitment to developing medical countermeasures to enhance the nation's public health preparedness in the years to come."

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1055680.html

23. *October 8, The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services* – (National) **HHS awards contracts for trial implementations of the nationwide health information network.** The Secretary of Health and Human Services announced Monday the award of contracts totaling \$22.5 million to nine health information exchanges to begin trial implementations of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN). These contracts will create a secure foundation for basic health information exchange between select health information exchanges, upon which more complex functions will be possible over time. This work will advance the nation toward the President's goal of most Americans having access to secure electronic health records by 2014, by creating a secure foundation for health information exchange that can follow Americans throughout their lives.

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1055681.html

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Four planes escorted out of no-fly area.** On Sunday, President Bush spoke at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, not far from the charity air show for the Experimental Aircraft Association and the Hagerstown Aviation Museum. Several pilots flying in for the air show were intercepted by F-16s and escorted out of the area, which was restricted air space due to the President's proximity. Many of these pilots were flying antique planes without radios. According to the *Associated Press* "a dozen planes flew into the area, causing the North American Aerospace Defense Command to scramble its fighters. Most were warned off, but four planes were intercepted, escorted to nearby airports and forced to land."

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gXxr09qk8QgkWJQ52BgbqsQTcmSQD8S5BRQG0>

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *October 9, PR Newswire* – (Minnesota) **Minneapolis activates '3-1-1' citizen response number.** Minneapolis, Minnesota has joined a number of cities pioneering the use of 3-1-1

services--a single phone number that provides its 380,000 citizens with faster access to non-emergency city government services. The City recently enacted its 3-1-1 services via a comprehensive, Internet Protocol (IP) based open communications infrastructure. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorized the 3-1-1 number in 1997 but only recently have municipalities like Minneapolis started implementing it. A key function is to offload 9-1-1 calls, of which an estimated 60 percent are non-emergency. "3-1-1 is a huge initiative for us, and we needed to implement a more reliable telecommunications platform and robust applications for that to be successful," said Minneapolis's telecommunications manager. "Not only does it offload 9-1-1 and let us improve our responsiveness to our citizens' needs, but it also will help us address other disaster recovery scenarios by giving us a way to field excess 9-1-1 calls in the event of a citywide catastrophe," she said.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071009/nytu093.html?v=101>

26. *October 8, Computerworld* – (Texas) **Seton hospitals upgrade emergency alert system.** Critical emergency information has become easier to distribute at Seton Family of Hospitals, according to the director of safety, security and emergency management at the group of 10 hospitals in Austin. To send emergency alerts, Seton deployed an early version of React Enterprise in 2003, and will soon take advantage of new features in Version 5.0 announced last month by React Systems Inc. in Los Altos, California, he said. "We use React for all emergency situations," he said. "You might have an elderly patient wander off, or have a cardiac arrest for a 'code blue' team, or even a major disaster." The system is software-based, coordinating distribution of alerts to desktops, laptops and handhelds, including cell phones, using voice and text, he explained. At Seton, there are about 6,000 desktops in the alert network and 12,000 employees. The new version supports two-way communication that wasn't possible before React Enterprise 5.0, a spokesman for React said. The new version also supports clustering of servers, remote alert configuration, voice, Short Messaging Service, and Windows and Macintosh systems. A central advantage of the system, which has so far cost Seton about \$250,000, is that alerts are sent in a matter of seconds. The React tool can also customize what level or group of emergency responders will get a message.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041318&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

27. *October 8, WBZ Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Bill would make bogus 911 calls a crime.** WBZ news of Boston is reporting that legislation will be filed Monday that would make it a crime to make bogus calls to 911 operators. More than 300,000 calls a year taken at the wireless 911 center in Framingham are not for real emergencies, and many are downright abusive. "Well the issue is the system gets congested with all these inappropriate calls from people calling for directions or complaining about road construction," said the manager of wireless 911. States like Tennessee and Georgia have already passed laws making bogus 911 calls a crime. Tennessee has collected more than \$400,000 in fines.

Source: http://wbztv.com/local/local_story_281095318.html

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Information Technology

28. *October 8, IDG News Service* – (National) **Hacker breaks into eBay server, locks users out.**

A malicious hacker broke into an eBay Inc. server on Friday and temporarily suspended the accounts of a “very small” number of members, the company said. “We were able to block the fraudster quickly before any permanent damage had been done. At no point did the fraudster get any access to financial information or other sensitive information,” an eBay spokeswoman said. EBay has “secured and restored” the affected accounts and is calling the affected users, she said, without specifying how many accounts the hacker accessed and tinkered with. The perpetrator of that confidential data disclosure posted the names and contact information of 1,200 eBay members on the company’s Trust & Safety discussion forum, along with credit card numbers that were later determined to be invalid. EBay eventually concluded that the attacker obtained the information via a phishing scheme, tricking individual members into disclosing the data. Friday’s hack has quite a few eBay members rattled, judging by a long discussion forum thread about the incident. In that thread, some affected eBay members report receiving e-mails from a hacker identified as Vladuz saying that he had targeted them for posting forum comments that were critical of him. Vladuz has in the past reportedly stolen login information that has allowed him to post messages to eBay discussion forums as if he were an eBay employee.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041518&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

29. *October 8, Computerworld* – (National) **Adobe admits PDF exploit, posts workaround.**

Adobe Systems Inc. has confirmed that there is a critical bug in its most popular programs, but it does not yet have a patch that protects Windows XP users against attacks arriving as PDF files. In an advisory posted Friday, Adobe admitted that the flaw first disclosed by Petko Petkov, a U.K.-based security researcher, was real. The San Jose-based company also provided a multiple-step work-around in lieu of a permanent fix to its Adobe Acrobat software and its free Adobe Reader application. Adobe’s work-around requires editing the Windows registry, a daunting chore for most users, but it will protect against malicious PDF documents that exploit the “mailto:” URI (universal resource identifier) to trick users into downloading attack code. Mailto:, one of the most-frequently used URIs, launches the default e-mail client and opens a pre-address message when a link is clicked inside a Web browser. The terse description indicates that the PDF vulnerability is yet another protocol-handling bug. Those flaws have been a hot topic in security circles since July, when another researcher showed how Internet Explorer and rival Firefox could be used to run malicious code by exploiting invalid URIs. In fact, the debate over patching responsibility resumed on Friday, when a German analyst said IE7 brought new bugs to Windows XP.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041338&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

30. *October 9, Government Technology* – (National) **Federal legislation would require E-911 for IP voice systems.** IP telephony, which allows the user to take one telephone number to any location in the world, would now be required to be “located” for the purpose of emergency calls. The “911 Modernization and Public Safety Act of 2007” (H.R. 3403), would “Promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encouraging the nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities.” The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) announced their support of the bill, and NENA’s president said, “Our nation's 9-1-1 system is a vital public safety and homeland security asset. Every day 9-1-1 callers seek critical emergency assistance and are the eyes and ears helping others during emergencies in local communities and assisting with our nation's homeland security. Modern communication capabilities offer an opportunity to improve the system as we know it, but they also offer challenges. The 9-1-1 community must embrace and react to change quickly, to better serve the American public, industry and the mobile consumer in all emergencies. We need help from Congress to do so.”

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/articles/154684>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *October 9, El Paso Times* – (Texas) **Toy gun prompts Wal-Mart evacuation.** A Wal-Mart in Cielo Vista, Texas was evacuated Monday morning after police received a report of a man with a gun in the parking lot. The man, police said, was a customer returning a toy gun. He was released later without charge.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_7122401

32. *October 9, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Fire breaks out in Jersey City building.** A fire broke out Monday night between the 17th and 18th floor of an 18-story luxury, high-rise condominium building under construction, prompting evacuations and disrupting service on the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Line close to the heart of the Jersey City’s financial district. Firefighters had trouble reaching the fire, partly because the building's standpipe was activated only up to the 14th floor. Police said several blocks around the fire scene were closed to traffic Tuesday morning. There were no reported injuries.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/nationworld/ci_7123104

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Remote parts of Montana park said polluted.**

According to a recent study by an Environmental Protection Agency scientist, several areas of Glacier National Park have such high levels of pollutants that some fish there pose a danger to the wildlife that eat them. Over the three years of the study, researchers analyzed samples from water, lake sediment, vegetation, and fish. These tests revealed “contamination such as a pesticide that is not used widely in the United States but is applied in Canada, and pesticides that are banned in North America but still are used in some other parts of the world.” Many of these pesticides are either persistent organic pollutants or semi-volatile organic compounds, which have “relatively low molecular weights and volatilize easily in the atmosphere when put under heat. They move around the globe, scrubbing out of the air in rain or snow and then vaporizing back into the sky during warmth. Glacier is the kind of cold spot in which they can become trapped.”

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h40QybgS0DTEMwpB-XvVN74RDCeQD8S5BNVG0>

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Dams Sector

34. *October 8, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Tennessee) **Senator backs expanded lock at Chickamauga Dam.** A senator from Tennessee referred to continued work on a new lock at the Chickamauga Dame as “critical for the region’s economy, traffic and air quality.” The current lock dates from the 1930s and ‘40s and is affected by “‘concrete growth’ caused by the interaction of the rock and river water.” According to the senator, “If the existing lock were to close, more than 100,000 additional trucks a day might be needed to carry the cargo now hauled by barge through the lock.” Barge traffic has the advantage of polluting less than truck traffic and increasing industry in the region. President Bush has threatened to veto one of the funding measures needed for continued work on the lock.

Source:

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/absolutenm/templates/breaking.aspx?articleid=22895&zoneid=41>

35. *October 7, The Garden Island* – (Hawaii) **Levee repair work gets nod from state.** In the spring of 2006, 40 days of rain resulted in flooding across Kaua’i County, especially along the banks of the Waimea River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cautioned that the levee walls along the Waimea River must be maintained and cleaned up. For the past eight months, the county Public Works Department has repaired and maintained the levee walls along both the Waimea and Hanapepe Rivers. Last week, the Honolulu division of the Army Corps of Engineers presented an award to the county Public Works Department for the Waimea control project being the most improved maintenance project in the Honolulu district for fiscal year 2007.

Source: <http://www.kauaiworld.com/articles/2007/10/08/news/news02.txt>

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